


THE TIME ALLOWED PER NON-AGENDA ITEM FOR COMMENTS MADE BY THE PUBLIC IS LIMITED TO FIVE MINUTES. The City Council cannot deliberate or take any action on a non-agenda item unless there is factual evidence presented to the City Council indicating that the subject brought up by the public does fall into one of the exceptions under Government Code Section 54954.2 in that (a) there is an emergency situation. or (b) the need to take action on the item arose subsequent to the agenda's being posted. Unless the City Council is presented with this factual evidence, the City Council will refer the matter for review and placement on a future City Council agenda.

Steve Jarrett, Vice Chair of the Lodi Improvement Committee (LIC), read a prepared letter (filed) by LIC Chair Bob Takeuchi regarding the establishment of an Eastside Summit for the improvement and funding of the infrastructure, appearance, and private investment into Lodi's eastside and requesting the appointment of a City Council representative to work with LIC on this effort. Mr. Jarrett requested the matter be placed on a future Council agenda.

Suga Moriwaki distributed to Council a booklet prepared by the San Joaquin Historian regarding Lodi's Japantown and further provided a brief history of Lodi's Japanese community. Ms. Moriwaki requested that the City consider including an historical time line on its Website to include the diverse ethnic communities in Lodi, which have contributed greatly to the culture and economics of this City.

 Louise Fassio distributed information regarding rebates for synthetic turf (filed) and urged Council to consider offering such a program in Lodi. In response to Mayor Hansen, Ms. Fassio confirmed that she is involved with the installation of synthetic turf and works for Valley Landscaping and Maintenance. To date, the company has completed four projects in Lodi.

Ann Cerney expressed concern regarding the suggestion of synthetic turf, stating that groundwater is recharged by seepage of rain from the water table and any covering that impedes that process should be taken into consideration.

G. Comments by the City Council Members on Non-Agenda Items

Council Member Johnson commented on a recent meeting of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, at which the Board discussed the allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Several disparaging comments were made about the City of Lodi and its decision to become an entitlement city, which puts the City outside of the County's control of CDBG funds, and he expressed disappointment in the implications that were made.

Council Member Mounce announced that the Greater Lodi Area Youth Commission will once again host Teen Lead, which helps foster leadership for young people in Lodi. She provided application packets to each Council Member and encouraged them to share the information. Anyone wishing to participate or be a sponsor was encouraged to contact the Lodi Youth Commission at 333-6800 x2424. Ms. Mounce further reminded Council that the upcoming League of California Cities meeting will be held on June 11 at Wine and Roses; guest speaker will be California State Controller John Chiang. Steven Qualls, League of California Cities representative, added that due to the generosity of local sponsors there will be no charge for dinner.

Council Member Hitchcock requested that the Council decision to install synthetic turf at the Grape Bowl be agendized for reconsideration. Since the action was taken, she has received further information and feedback and is uncomfortable with the decision that was made. Ms. Hitchcock requested a more detailed report regarding synthetic turf be provided to Council to include cost, cost savings, and any controversy.

REBATES FOR SYNTHETIC TURF

Good evening Mayor, City Council Members, and Staff.

I am here tonight to urge you to consider a rebate program for the replacement of natural grass with synthetic turf for the homeowners and business owners in the City of Lodi. We have always been considered a progressive city when it comes to ideas and programs that not only save money but also improves our community as a whole. For those homeowners and business owners that choose to install synthetic turf, I feel we should reward their decisions to conserve our natural resources. For those who are unaware of the benefits of synthetic turf, I feel we should spread the word and give our community an incentive to improve everyone's quality of life. The savings benefits can be seen immediately and continue to be seen on a long-term basis. The ecological benefits are overwhelming. We not only improve our air quality but also experience a savings of our most precious commodity, water. It is not only important but also necessary.

Why we need to conserve water:

The State of California is in its third year of drought. In each year of the current drought, annual rainfall and the water content in the Sierra snowpack have been significantly below the amounts needed to fill the California's reservoir system. The rainfall and snowpack deficits in each year of the current drought have put California further and further behind in meeting its essential water needs. 2008 was the driest spring and summer on record, with rainfall at 76 percent below average. The Sacramento and San Joaquin River systems, which provide much of the state's reservoir inflow, were classified as Critically Dry for that year. As a result of our current water situation, Governor Schwarzenegger issued an Executive Order proclaiming a statewide drought on February 27, 2009. The Governor is seeking a 20% reduction in water use by the year 2020. This is the second year such action has been deemed necessary by the Governor.

- Latest Snowpack Survey

The latest snow survey taken on April 2, 2009 from the Department of Water Resources indicates that the snowpack water content is 81 percent of normal, statewide. This entity further stated, "A below-average snowpack at this time of year, especially following two consecutive dry years is a cause for concern... Our most critical storage reservoirs remain low, and we face severe water supply problems in many parts of our state. Californians must continue to save water at home and in their business."

- Public Works Dept. of Lodi

The News Advisory issued by the Lodi Department of Public Works stated "all City of Lodi water is pumped from underground aquifers, which is recharged by the Mokelumne River, foothill aquifers and local rainfall. Despite our local conservation efforts, we have been using under groundwater faster than it is being recharged." The advisory further

stated, “A 20 percent reduction in water use should include landscaping and indoor use changes.”

- Landscape Water Consumption

Landscapes, notably the turf, are the largest area of water consumption for the residential homeowner. According to Publication 8044 from the University of California Agricultural and Natural Resource “Lawn Watering Guide for California”, the minutes per week required to irrigate a lawn in San Joaquin County can be very significant. Depending upon the sprinklerhead output, the weekly amount of time to irrigate a cool season grass can average from 9 minutes in the winter to as much as 119 in the summer. This averages out to a daily requirement of 1.28 minutes in the winter and 17 minutes in the summer. Since we are unable to water everyday in Lodi, the time necessary to irrigate a lawn on the appropriate watering days would increase. The water output from a typical lawn irrigation set-up, allowed to run for 17 minutes, sprays 20-25 gallons of water per sprinkler head. When you consider the number of turf areas in the City of Lodi, this is a considerable amount of water!

Synthetic Turf as an alternative:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California estimates that synthetic turf saves 37 gallons of water per year – per square foot. If you assume that a typical residential customer might install 900 square feet of turf, this equates to over 32,000 gallons saved each year not to mention the savings in water/sewer charges.

- Reduce Water Contamination

Water savings is just one of the many savings advantages that can be attained with the installation of synthetic turf. The elimination of fertilizers and herbicides not only is a monetary savings but also can help to reduce the amount of contaminants our children and pets are subjected to while playing on natural lawn surfaces. The use of synthetic turf also eliminates fertilizers and herbicides from entering our water system in the form of run off from watering lawns. Northern California not only supplies water for the surrounding areas but for a large portion of Southern California.

- Reduce Green Waste

The amount of green waste generated from grass clippings is significant. Our landfills are full now. With the increase in the population in California and more and more houses being built with natural turf lawns, this problem is only getting worse. Synthetic turf does not generate grass-clipping waste.

- Reduce Air Pollution

The air pollution from the use of gas-powered mowers can be greatly reduced with the installation of synthetic turf. Even the gas used by mowing crews to drive to a job can be eliminated. This saves money and improves our air quality.

- Reduce Maintenance Time

With synthetic turf, the homeowner will not have to spend precious time or money to keep his or her own lawn mowed. Business owners also will enjoy a big dollar savings by eliminating the need for mowing crews necessary to keep lawn areas looking nice. Synthetic turf never needs mowing. The perfect appearance is very appealing to homeowners, HOA's, apartment owners and businesses. With minimal upkeep, this alternative to natural turf is virtually maintenance free.

Rebates for installation of Synthetic Turf:

Several cities are offering rebates to homeowners and businesses for replacing their natural turf with synthetic turf. The City of Roseville has a "Cash for Grass" program where they will offer homeowners \$1.00 for every square foot of lawn converted to a water smart landscaping, including the use of synthetic turf, with a maximum of \$1,000 per address. The North Marin Water District offers to pay \$100 for 100 square feet of lawn removed. The cash rebates are limited to \$1,000 for single-family dwellings, \$200 for townhouses or condominiums, and \$100 for apartments. Soquel Water District is offering up to \$2 per square foot of turf replaced. SoCal WaterSmart of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which includes many counties in southern California, will pay rebates starting at \$.30 per square foot for turf replaced with synthetic turf. Several water districts throughout the state and country are offering incentives for replacing natural turf with synthetic. Some districts offer cash while others will apply the rebate money toward the water bill. Either way, everyone saves.

I appreciate your consideration on this important and beneficial alternative. Thank you for your time.



Louise A. Fassio
Marketing Director
Valley Landscaping & Maintenance, Inc.

References:

- State of Emergency-Water Shortage-Proclamation by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, dated February 27, 2009
- Department of Water Resources-News for Immediate Release, dated April 2, 2009
- City of Lodi Department of Public Works-News Advisory, dated April 14, 2009
- University of California Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources-Publication 8004
- Rain Bird Landscape Irrigation Products Catalog, dated 2008-2009 (1800 series spray head with a 15 series MPR half circle nozzle at 20 psi)
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, April 2009
- City of Roseville, May, 2009
- North Marin Water District, April 2009
- Soquel Creek Water District, April 2009